IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, lines 21-27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Furthermore, when the dewatering hole is used, melten resin may lead from the hole. For this reason, the watering ~~hole~~ slit is preferred. A preferred example of such a dewatering slit includes a wedge wire dewatering slit or a screen mesh type dewatering slit. Herein, the wedge wire denotes a wire having a wedge shape, that is, a triangular prism shape cross section. In the wedge wire dewatering slit, the wedge wires are arranged with [[a]] predetermined gaps and water from the resin is extruded out through the gaps.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 21 through page 38, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A 45% methanol solution of ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer having an ethylene content of 32 ~~weight%~~ mol% was placed in a saponification reaction, a sodium hydroxide/methanol solution (80g/L) was added thereto so as to be 0.4 equivalent with respect to a vinyl acetate component in the copolymer, and methanol was added thereto so that the concentration of the copolymer was adjusted to 20%. The temperature was raised to 60°C and reaction was performed for about 4 hours while blowing nitrogen gas into the reactor. After 4 hours, the reacted product was neutralized with acetic acid to stop the reaction. Furthermore, water was supplied thereto, and a water and methanol solution of EVOH having an ethylene content of 32 ~~weight%~~ mol% and saponification degree of 99.5% was obtained. The EVOH solution was extruded from a metal mold having circular holes into water, thereby allowing the EVOH solution to precipitate in the form of a strand. The strand was cut into pellets having a diameter of about 3 mm and a length of about 5 mm. The obtained pellets were dewatered with a centrifugal separator. Furthermore, the operation in